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Fifty-fourth session
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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/54/587/Add.6)*]

54/235. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/187 of 18 December 1997, in which it decided to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2001, as well as its resolution 53/182 of 15 December 1998,

Noting the progress made in the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration and Ministerial Statement on the South Summit adopted at the twenty-third annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77,[1] held in New York on 24 September 1999, and the Declaration adopted by the Ninth Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries,[2] held in New York on 29 September 1999,

1. *Recalls* that the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries will convene in 2001, welcomes the offer of the European Union to host the Conference in Brussels, and decides to accept the offer;

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[1] A/54/432, annexes I and II.

[2] A/C.2/54/3, annex.

2. *Decides* that the meeting of the intergovernmental preparatory committee envisaged in paragraph 4 of its resolution 53/182 will be held in New York in two parts, in the third quarter of 2000 and the first quarter of 2001, each for five working days;

3. *Also decides* that the Secretary-General of the Conference will organize the three expert-level preparatory meetings provided for in paragraph 4 of its resolution 53/182 at the venues and for the durations deemed most appropriate in consultation with Member States;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to organize regional-level preparatory events in collaboration with the regional commissions and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate;

5. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General of the Conference, in consultation with Member States and in cooperation with relevant organizations and agencies, to organize well-focused sectoral, thematic and country-specific round-table meetings, as appropriate, during the Conference to contribute to its work;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations;

7. *Notes with appreciation*, in this regard, the initiative of the European Union to assist the least developed countries in their preparations at the country level through the assistance of their representatives in those countries, invites the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and all other relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system to provide support to country-level preparations through their field offices in the least developed countries, and calls upon the development partners to support this preparatory process;

8. *Urges* the organizations involved in the implementation of the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance, including for Human and Institutional Capacity-building, to Support Least Developed Countries in their Trade and Trade-related Activities to intensify their support for efforts to assist those countries in enhancing their export supply capacity and trade opportunities and to integrate them into the multilateral trading system, and requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to ensure that information on progress in the implementation of the Integrated Framework is included in the reports submitted to the preparatory committee and to the Conference itself;

9. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, together with their development partners, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, as appropriate, to link the forthcoming round-table and consultative group meetings to the country-level preparatory process for the Conference and to ensure that those meetings make substantive contributions to the Conference;

10. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in his capacity as convenor of the United Nations Development Group, to ensure the full involvement of United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in the least developed countries in the preparations for the Conference, in particular at the country level;

11. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Conference, to convene inter-agency meetings, as necessary, to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant institutions, for the purpose of carrying out preparations for and providing follow-up to the Conference;

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12. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the Conference to make arrangements, on the basis of consultations with Member States, to facilitate the broad-based involvement of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the preparatory process and in the Conference and its follow-up;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to take the necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance public awareness in favour of the Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and significance;

14. *Decides* to defray the cost of the participation of two government representatives from each least developed country in the meetings of the preparatory committee and the Conference itself through the use of extrabudgetary resources, and, in the event that those resources prove to be insufficient, requests the Secretary-General to consider all other options, including the use of unspent balances from the regular budget for the biennium 1996-1997 as an exceptional measure;

15. *Calls upon* donor countries to provide financial support for the participation of the least developed countries in both the preparatory process and the Conference itself, and welcomes efforts already made to that effect;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and Member States, to make the necessary arrangements, through redeployment and the use of other resources at their disposal, for the substantial strengthening of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries, through the provision of sufficient staff and resources, with a view to enabling it to organize effectively and efficiently the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the follow-up to its outcome, while satisfactorily carrying out its mandates relating to the least developed, landlocked and small island developing countries;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the state of preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, taking into account the consideration of the matter at the forty-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board;

18. *Decides* that the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s will continue to provide the framework for national and international action for the least developed countries until the adoption of the next programme of action at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to the implementation of the present and future programmes of action for the least developed countries on a system-wide basis and in the context of the follow-up to all major United Nations conferences and summits as well as all forthcoming events, including the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the high-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development, including the preparatory process, and the Millennium Assembly;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries".

88th plenary meeting
23 December 1999